

Sixth meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee

Via Microsoft Teams, Friday, 8 October 2021, 9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m.

Remarks of

**Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninx,
Executive Director, CTED**

Thank you, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

It is clear that internal political dynamics are likely to shape the future terrorist threat within and beyond Afghanistan.

The provisional cabinet has signalled that the Taliban is unlikely to live up to its commitment to form an inclusive Government as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 2593 (2021).

The new appointments announced on 21 September appear to accommodate various Taliban factions that had felt themselves neglected by the first round of nominations.

However, the all-male and Pashtun-centric de facto authority is likely to face further security challenges from disenfranchised elements.

Globally, the terrorism threat level remains high and continues to evolve in South and Central Asia, as well as in parts of Africa (including the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and parts of Eastern and Southern Africa).

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Acting on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, CTED will continue to engage with Member States of all regions to assess strengths and weaknesses in their counter-terrorism responses.

We shall also continue to facilitate the delivery of prioritized technical assistance needs.

And in this regard, allow me to mention a few priority areas that are applicable to Member States of South and Central Asia and Africa:

- **Ensuring that the terrorist threat to the States of those regions, and the associated challenges, are addressed through a comprehensive regional approach that is based on a regional threat assessment and enhanced regional cooperation mechanisms;**
- **Encouraging Member States to amend their legislation to ensure that all offences set forth in the relevant international counter-terrorism instruments are adequately reflected in domestic law (including the range of offences relating to foreign terrorist fighter travel);**
- **Strengthening inter-agency coordination and cooperation within and between Member States (including their financial authorities);**
- **Detecting and preventing terrorist and other serious crimes through the tracking and sharing of travel information and the use of international databases, including by strengthening intelligence exchange, as well as by implementing API/PNR systems;**

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- **Strengthening weapons and ammunition legislation; criminalizing the full range of firearms-related offences; and updating and digitizing firearms registries;**
- **Enhancing the capability of investigators and prosecutors to handle complex counter-terrorism cases, including the exploitation of data from digital sources in and outside their own jurisdictions;**
- **Developing and implementing comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies.**
- **Working closely with humanitarian organizations and the financial sector to ensure that counter-terrorism measures are not implemented in a manner that unduly affects the delivery of exclusively humanitarian activities that are carried out by humanitarian actors in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law.**

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Moving forward, I would propose three main areas of focus:

First, CTED proposes to conduct targeted assessment missions to States of Central and South Asia and Africa — with the approval of the CTC and as travel and political conditions permit — aimed at gathering up-to-date information on the evolving situation and making tailored recommendations.

Second, CTED intends to engage in discussions with relevant Member States on ways to mitigate the potential negative effects of counter-terrorism measures on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

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Specific examples in this regard include the issuance of general licences specific to Afghanistan and the establishment of a dedicated forum on Afghanistan involving all relevant stakeholders (including aid organizations and representatives of the financial sector and other private-sector actors).

***Third*, I would encourage members of the Global Coordination Compact to focus on prioritizing technical assistance programmes for States of Central and South Asia and for States of the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and Eastern and Southern Africa, based on the priority recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.**

CTED of course stands ready to facilitate the necessary support.

Thank you.